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MISCELLANEA.

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I.—*Statistics of the Clearing House.*

THE Editor has been favoured by Sir John Lubbock with the following communication, accompanied by the interesting return printed below it:—

“ *Lombard Street,*
“ *7th June, 1867.*

“ Sir,—The committee of bankers having determined to ascertain and publish the total daily amount passing through the Clearing House, I have the pleasure of forwarding you the first series of these statistics.

“ We have determined to commence the week on Thursday, in order that the publication may coincide with that of the Bank of England balance sheet; but to make the statistics for the month complete, I have added the amount for Wednesday, the 1st May, namely, 8,006,000*l.*

“ It would, of course, be very interesting if the amount of bills could be distinguished from that of cheques. This is at present impracticable; but the amount on the 4th of each month, which is the principal day for the settlement of inland bills, will be a guide to the relative activity of our inland trade, while the totals on the Stock Exchange settling days will be an indication of the increase or decrease of business on that market.

“ It is hardly necessary for me to observe that the Clearing House returns do not give the whole of the transactions passing through the London banks.

“ If the accompanying figures are compared with those of the year 1839 (see *Journal of the Statistical Society* for 1856), the same remarkable progress will be observed as that shown by the Board of Trade returns.

“ The average amounts for each day of the week in 1839 were—

	Average of each Day of the Week.	Average of each Day of the Week, Omitting the 4th of each Month and Settling Days.
	£	£
Thursday.....	2,725,000	2,367,400
Friday	3,098,800	2,912,900
Saturday	3,621,700	3,575,000
Monday	2,927,700	2,653,200
Tuesday	3,292,600	3,123,200
Wednesday.....	2,734,400	2,514,700
	18,400,200	17,146,400

"We have not yet sufficient data for a corresponding calculation; but the average of the five subjoined weeks is nearly 60,000,000*l.*, showing an excess of more than 40,000,000*l.*

"Our export trade for last year was 188,900,000*l.*, against 53,200,000*l.* for 1839 (see the *Economist*, 11th May, 1867), and is, therefore, three and a-half times as large as it was then. The Clearing House returns coincide very closely with this, as they show an increase of three and a-quarter times, and it must be remembered that business is far from active at present. It is very probable, therefore, that before long the Clearing House returns will be found to tally even more closely with those of the Board of Trade.

"I may add that the largest amount which passed through the Clearing House in any one day in 1839 was 6,209,900*l.*, and the smallest was 1,529,700*l.*

"I am, Sir, your ob. serv.

"JOHN LUBBOCK,

"*Hon. Sec. London Bankers.*"

"F. Purdy, Esq., Ed. *S. J.*"

Return of the Daily Amounts Passing through the Bankers' Clearing House during the Five Weeks ended with 5th June, 1867.

	£	£
Wednesday, 1st May	8,006,000	
Thursday, 2nd May	8,767,000	
Friday, 3rd „	10,188,000	
Saturday, 4th „	12,900,000	
Monday, 6th „	7,302,000	
Tuesday, 7th „	8,647,000	
Wednesday, 8th „	9,220,000	
<i>Total for the week</i>	—	57,024,000
Thursday, 9th May	9,554,000	
Friday, 10th „	9,453,000	
Saturday, 11th „	9,321,000	
Monday, 13th „	8,301,000	
Tuesday, 14th „	8,968,000	
Wednesday, 15th „	18,177,000	
<i>Total for the week</i>	—	63,774,000
Thursday, 16th May	10,155,000	
Friday, 17th „	11,309,000	
Saturday, 18th „	11,685,000	
Monday, 20th „	7,580,000	
Tuesday, 21st „	8,451,000	
Wednesday, 22nd „	8,288,000	
<i>Total for the week</i>	—	57,468,000

Return of the Daily Amounts Passing through the Bankers' Clearing House
—Contd.

	£	£
Thursday, 23rd May,.....	7,986,000	
Friday, 24th „	9,112,000	
Saturday, 25th „	9,653,000	
Monday, 27th „	8,293,000	
Tuesday, 28th „	9,348,000	
Wednesday, 29th „	7,679,000	
<i>Total for the week</i>	—	52,071,000
Thursday, 30th May	7,793,000	
Friday, 31st „	18,329,000	
Saturday, 1st June	11,206,000	
Monday, 3rd „	9,281,000	
Tuesday, 4th „	13,132,000	
Wednesday, 5th „	8,639,000	
<i>Total for the week</i>	—	<u>68,380,000</u>

II.—*Defective Registration of Births and Deaths in England.*

THE annexed memorial from the *Manchester Statistical Society* was recently presented to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department. Whether regarded socially, or from a merely statistical point of view, the questions raised by the memorialists are of grave and practical import.

“ The Memorial of the Members of the Manchester Statistical Society.

“ Humbly sheweth,

“ That your memorialists, being deeply impressed with the importance of securing a correct national registry of births and deaths, and having appointed a committee to investigate the subject, are strongly of opinion that the time has now arrived for further legislative action.

“ That sanitary legislation and scientific inquiries are based upon the Registrar-General's returns, and although the heads of the department have worked with great zeal and diligence, it has been found that 17 per cent. of all recorded cases of deaths, the cause is absolutely uncertified, the total numbers so uncertified amounting to 85,000 annually.

“ That the mortuary record has no legal sanction, both the Court of Chancery and the Bank of England refuse to accept the death certificate as proof of death.

“ That the law is defective in the following particulars:—

“ There is no compulsory power to obtain a scientific record of the cause of death, and there is no security under the provisions

of the Registration Act, against fraudulent statements and the concealment of crimes of violence

“ Still-born children are not registered, and the omission has notoriously facilitated the burial of children as still-born, who have been born alive.

“ Infanticide has greatly increased, and the grave too often conceals the evidence of secret poisoning. In Norfolk it is known that twenty burials were effected under the sanction of the registrar, yet evidence subsequently procured led to the detection of poison in each case.

“ There is no efficient check upon the district registrars, and it is only in gross cases of fraudulent returns that there is a probability of detection. In four instances the temptation of the shilling fee has led to extensive forgeries of names attached to fictitious deaths. The assistance derived from coroners in their reports to the registrar is not as perfect as it might be.

“ Scientific medical assistance in coroner's courts is only sought where there is suspicion of foul play, and in ordinary cases the cause of death returned by the coroner is necessarily inexact. In not a few instances, unsatisfactory returns are made in suspicious cases, over which the coroner has no control.

“ That in a Report by Dr. Buchanan, published by the Privy Council, it is stated, that in 1862, forty-five deaths occurred in St. Giles, in which there ought to have been a proper inquiry; in thirty-six there was no medical certificate, and in eleven no medical attendant. In two instances there was *prima facie* evidence of poisoning. In the deaths of twenty infants under a week old, there was no medical evidence at all. It is only right to add that Dr. Buchanan has year by year reported a considerable reduction of these defective returns. Dr. Lankester mentions a large number of cases where medical certificates have been given, and where registration and burial have been effected, which were highly unsatisfactory. In some cases certificates were given where the doctors had not seen the patients alive; and others again, where they had neither seen them alive or dead. He alludes to instances of sudden and violent deaths, without any notice being given to the coroner.

“ In some cases under the present law, extraordinary laxity prevails in obtaining certificates of deaths. In South Wales, it appears from a report furnished to the Privy Council, great confusion has prevailed in the registrar's books. The following instances are amongst the most noteworthy :—

	Certified.	Not Certified.
At Aberaeron out of 500 notices....	333	167
„ Llanybether „ ...	101	399
„ St. David's „	15	485
„ Pembroke „	163	287
	612	1,338

"That your memorialists believe the appointment of duly qualified officers of health would assist the Registrar-General in obtaining correct mortuary returns, and at the same time benefit the country in various other ways. Your petitioners consider it desirable that some attempt at organisation should be made at once, but that it is desirable to delay the appointments generally, until special education has provided a class of skilled persons competent to undertake the duties. A liberal stipend, partly paid by the Treasury, would attract an accomplished staff, whose duties, in addition to inquiry into every death, with power to make *post mortem* examinations, and to report to the authorities, might include assistance to the coroner and a general sanitary supervision of his district.

"That this would involve an inquiry into water supply, analyses of food, and the investigation of nuisances, and other agencies injurious to health.

"That the district of each officer should not be too extensive, and should follow union divisions.

"That the advantages resulting would be, an improved record of deaths; security to the public that coroner's inquests would be searching and scientific inquiries; a greater security against secret crimes, and a scientific attention to the sanitary requirements of each locality.

"That the Sanitary Act passed last session is admirable in its intentions, but it will prove a dead letter if its administration rests with the present sanitary authorities. If the Act is to be efficient, the health officer must in every instance be the adviser, if not the public prosecutor, and he must be thoroughly independent in the performance of his duties.

"That the necessity of these appointments seems undeniable to your memorialists, but the manner in which they should be made demands careful investigation.

"That an inquiry into the deficiencies of the Registration Act, and into the best mode of appointing officers of health should, in the opinion of your memorialists, be undertaken by a Royal Commission, or by some similar authority.

"Signed on behalf of the Society,

"DAVID CHADWICK, *President*.

"THOMAS BROWNING, } *Hon. Secs.*"

"HENRY CARNE OATS, }

III.—*The Insane Poor of Great Britain and Ireland.*

THESE statistics are reprinted from the *Manchester Guardian* of 19th February, 1867; they complete the account for the United Kingdom, commenced at p. 158.

3.—*The Insane Poor of Ireland.*

"A few weeks since a detailed statement was given in these columns of the number of the insane poor in England and Wales and in Scotland. We now

propose to complete the survey for the United Kingdom, by placing the statistics of Irish insanity before our readers, so far as the official reports furnish appropriate materials for the investigation. In one respect the sister isle is painfully distinguished from Great Britain, namely, the accommodation which she provides for the insane. With us, all who are mentally afflicted are lodged in asylums or in workhouses, or reside in private establishments and houses under the surveillance of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and the same system practically obtains in Scotland. But in Ireland fully half of those known to the authorities to be of unsound mind are 'at large.' In 1861, the total number of insane persons in Ireland was 17,046, or 29·4 per 10,000 of the population, according to the census of that year—a proportion much exceeding the corresponding ratios found for England and for Scotland. In asylums, workhouses, and gaols, 8,055 only were domiciled; while 8,991—so say the returns carefully gathered by the constabulary—were entirely destitute of the shelter and attendance of the kind provided for the smaller moiety.

"The number in one or the other of the Irish institutions is much greater now than formerly. Those which may be termed the 'in-door insane,' are thus shown for the 31st December, 1848, and for the same day of 1865:—

	1848.	1865.	Difference in 1865.
In public asylums	2,603	4,835	2,232 more
„ private „	432	583	151 „
„ gaols	338	505	167 „
„ workhouses	1,940	2,733	793 „
„ local and central asylums	365	189	176 less
Total	5,678	8,845	3,167 more

"As the in-door increase the out-door diminish. Thus, in 1862, 'the most recent constabulary returns made out,' stated the number of the latter class to be 8,209. The earlier statements are given with some *minutiae* for each county, and from these we have abstracted a summary in the following form:—

Insane Persons at Large in Ireland on 1st of April, 1861, according to Returns Collected by the Constabulary in that Year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Lunatics	866	785	1,651
Idiots	3,148	2,321	5,469
Epileptics	945	926	1,871
Total of the insane at large	4,959	4,032	8,991

"There are no further statistics of the out-door insane, the unprovided—consequently they here drop out of notice. The in-door, as the next table shows, have increased 10 per cent. since 1861:—

Insane Persons in Ireland in Public and Private Asylums, in Gaols, and Poorhouses on the 31st December, in the Five Years ended with 1865.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1861.....	3,820	4,235	8,055
'62.....	3,809	4,053	7,862
'63.....	4,086	4,186	8,272
'64.....	4,179	4,240	8,419
'65.....	4,403	4,442	8,845

"The augmentation of the in-door, facilitated greatly by the more liberal provision of asylum accommodation, is more marked among the men, who increased from 3,820 to 4,403, or 15·3 per cent. in five years, while the increase of women was from 4,235 to 4,442, or 4·9 per cent. only. The approach to equality in the number of males and of females is noticeable in the figures of 1865. Emigration from Ireland has done nothing to diminish the number of the insane. 'We may here observe,' say the official inspectors in their thirteenth report, 'that no very perceptible diminution has taken place in the number of the insane in this country within the last ten years, notwithstanding a marked decrease in the population at large. On inquiring throughout the provinces which on official inspection it is our duty to traverse, we hear that not only are the infirm of mind and body left at home by their emigrant friends, but that the insane, the epileptic, and debilitated are often sent back to their native country from America as being ill-calculated for social employment or military duties.' This is a melancholy picture indeed, and militates with the common impression that the poor Irish are strongly attached to their kith and kin.

"The insane poor who find refuge in the workhouses are divided into lunatics and idiots, and subdivided into 'simple' and 'epileptic':—

Lunatics in the Irish Workhouses on the 1st March, 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Simple lunatics	276	532	808
Epileptic „	118	148	266
Total of both classes of lunatics....	394	680	1,074

"To ten paupers classed as lunatics, there are sixteen who fall under the denomination of 'idiot.' In the workhouses the females largely outnumber the males, especially among the lunatics, while taking the insane generally, as we stated above, the males and females are nearly equal. By 'simple idiots,' the reporters mean those afflicted with congenital insanity. These cases are stated to be far below the proportion which is met with either in England or in Wales. With Scotland no comparison can be made. Speaking of the congenitally-afflicted poor in the workhouses, it is observed that 'many are to be found there utterly demented, or destitute of all reasoning power, the result of cerebral disease, or of a protracted series of epileptic attacks; but idiocy in the true acceptation of the term is rare in Ireland; neither, from the inquiries we have made, is there reason to think that there is much of it in the poorer classes throughout the country.*' By the latest statement of the Irish authorities, there were but 1,175 simple idiots domiciled, while the total number of idiots in England and Wales was 10,210. But of the congenital insane who are at large in Ireland, no numbers are given, and without them the comparison is of little worth. If 'idiot' in the constabulary returns

* Fifteenth Report on the Lunatic Asylums, Ireland.

of 1861 means 'simple idiot,' then it will be found that the congenital insane much exceed the English proportion.

Idiots in the Irish Workhouses on 1st March, 1866.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>Under 14 Years of Age—</i>			
Simple idiots	51	33	84
Epileptic „	14	11	25
<i>14 Years of Age and Under 30—</i>			
Simple idiots	228	243	471
Epileptic „	92	129	221
<i>Over 30 Years of Age—</i>			
Simple idiots	237	383	620
Epileptic „	84	154	238
Total number of simple idiots	516	659	1,175
„ epileptic „	190	294	484
Grand totals	706	953	1,659

“The simple idiots at each interval of age largely preponderated over those whose faculties were destroyed by epilepsy. Females in both sections of idiocy exceed the males, the disparity being greatest with the epileptics—61 females to 39 males. Of the simple idiots, 56 females to 44 males.

“The Irish authorities, like the Scotch, aim at scientific detail in the manipulation of their statistics. This is in honourable contrast to the feeble attempts in the same direction of the English Commissioners in Lunacy. The various incidents connected with the patients in the district asylums of Ireland are tabulated with care, the facts presented are full of interest and very suggestive. The next statement is not exactly in the form set out in the reports, but the value of the information is unquestionable.

Patients in the District Asylums of Ireland, and the Number of Discharges, Escapes, and Deaths during 1865.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients under treatment during 1865	3,129	2,891	6,020
Number thereof discharged during the year	393	387	780
<i>Under the following circumstances—</i>			
Recovered	293	303	596
Improved	59	64	123
Unimproved	41	20	61
Escaped	3	2	5
<i>Deaths—</i>			
From natural causes	203	194	397
„ accidental „	1	2	3

“Rather less than *one-eighth* of the number of patients under treatment in these institutions during the year were discharged—nearly *one-tenth* quitted as mentally convalescent, ‘recovered;’ and *one-fiftieth* part as ‘improved;’ 41 males and 20 females left ‘unimproved.’ In the same time the deaths were 400, or 6.6 per cent. of the inmates. There is not much numerical divergence revealed in

the table as between male and female, excepting in the section of 'unimproved,' as just now shown, the males to the females being as two to one.

"The mere movement of the asylum population is better displayed for a year by the figures of the enumeration below :—

The Movement in the Population of the District Asylums of Ireland in 1865.

	In Asylums 31st December, 1864.	Admitted during 1865.	Discharged, or Died, or Escaped, in 1865.	Remaining in the Asylums 31st December, 1865.
Males	2,465	664	600	2,529
Females	2,264	627	585	2,306
Total	4,729	1,291	1,185	4,835

"It will be found that the numbers at the beginning of the year, *plus* the numbers admitted during the year, constitute the total patients under treatment; the 6,020 of the previous statement. The 596 recovered, as entered in the same statement, are shown under six intervals of age in the following synopsis :—

Number Admitted to the Irish District Asylums, and the Number Discharged Recovered in the Year 1865.

	Admitted.			Discharged Recovered.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years of age.....	69	73	142	36	37	73
20 years of age and under 30	224	217	441	80	102	182
30 " " 40	165	123	288	94	64	158
40 " " 50	98	103	201	47	57	104
50 " " 60	67	70	137	23	25	48
60 " and upwards	40	41	81	11	11	22
Age not stated	—	—	—	2	7	9
Total	—	—	1,291	—	—	596

"Up to 50 years the discharged convalescent are equal to half the number admitted of the corresponding ages; after 50 the recoveries rapidly diminish.

"The Irish experience bears out all we have ever met with as to the chance of the lunatic's recovery, which is *inversely* to the length of time he has been under the attack. The 596 are thus exhaustively accounted for :—

Duration of Disease before Admission.	Patients Recovered during the Year.
Under quarter year	322
Quarter year and less than half year	86
Half year and less than three quarters ...	24
Under one year	25
One year and under two years.....	24
Two years " five "	21
Five years and upwards	13
Period not stated	81

"The figures tell their own tale plainly enough. They run very parallel to those we calculated for the Scotch asylums.*

"The relapsed cases form the other side of the picture. The evenness of number between the two sexes is noticeable here, as in some of the other tables:—

Relapsed Cases Admitted into the Irish District Asylums during the Year 1865.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Relapsed cases	128	123	251
<i>Whereof have been in the Asylum—</i>			
Once before	81	75	156
Twice „	20	25	45
Thrice „	14	15	29
Four times before	5	1	6
Five „	4	5	9
Six „ or oftener	4	2	6

"The value of the classification under the six heads shown below, we must leave to those who are familiar with the diagnosis of mental pathology to determine.

Form of Insanity of Patients in the Irish District Asylums on 31st December, 1865.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania	1,437	1,250	2,687
Melancholia	288	353	641
Dementia	252	250	502
Monomania.....	136	123	259
Imbecility	121	115	236
Idiocy	59	65	124
Mental affections, complicated with epilepsy	236	150	386
Total	2,529	2,306	4,835

"The larger half comes under 'mania,' and here the males outnumber the females; under 'melancholia' the sexes occupy the opposite relations; as to 'dementia' they are equal. Their inequality is most conspicuous in the last division, 'mental affections complicated with epilepsy,' here the males exceed the females by 57 per cent.

Civil Condition of Patients in the Irish District Asylums on 31st December, 1865, so far as known.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Married	491	554	1,045
Single	1,843	1,380	3,223
Widowed	69	212	281

* See *Guardian*, 1st January.

"Single persons have, according to these figures, three times the chance of being inside the walls of an Irish asylum than is the lot of the married—the single male in greater proportion than the single female. On the other hand, the 'widow' has more than three times the risk of the same sad fate that is likely to befall the 'widower.'

"The Irish blue books set out the *supposed* causes of mental disease under three heads, which, briefly shown for the district asylums on 31st December, stood thus with their proper statistics:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Moral causes	397	569	966
2. Physical causes	677	358	1,035
3. Hereditary predisposition	304	272	576
Unknown causes	1,151	1,107	2,258

"We have also a table of the 'class of life or occupation' of the asylum inmates, but as the number of the respective occupations of the general community whence the insane come is not known, the figures are of little worth. Numerically, the highest class in the asylums is the 'labouring,' namely, 1,567.

"The educational status of the insane is probably of little relevancy to psychological conditions. The teaching of the next table is to show what is the degree of instruction or ignorance which generally prevails among the Irish people—not much besides.

*Educational Condition of Patients in the Irish District Asylums on
31st December, 1865.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well educated	215	109	324
Can read and write well	466	301	767
" " indifferently.....	602	406	1,008
" " only	433	459	892
Cannot read	588	826	1,414
Unascertained	225	205	430

"As touching asylum discipline and management, the subjoined statement of the conduct of the inmates of the district asylums presents a few points for comment; we should imagine from the table that the females are more troublesome than the men—a distinction, however, not peculiar to lunatic asylums:—

*Classification according to Behaviour of Patients in the Irish District
Asylums on 31st December, 1865.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number in the asylum on the day ...	2,529	2,306	4,835
<i>Whereof were—</i>			
Quiet and orderly	1,096	888	1,984
Moderately tranquil	731	616	1,347
Noisy and refractory.....	521	624	1,145
Convalescent	181	178	359

"It should be observed that it is the practice of the Irish authorities to commit 'dangerous lunatics' to gaols. There were 1,193 thus in custody during 1865; of these 367 were sent to asylums under lord lieutenant's warrants, 290 were discharged by the committing magistrate, 25 were otherwise discharged, and 35 died, leaving at the end of the year 493 in gaol—343 males and 150 females. The reports do not afford the means of discriminating the private from the public or poor patients; it seems, however, probable that the former are between 500 and 600. Neither is it possible to exhibit succinctly the expense of maintaining the whole of the insane Irish who are domiciled. The total outlay in the district asylums alone in 1865 was 97,620*l.*; this gives the average annual cost per inmate as 20*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*"

IV.—*Dangers and Decay of the French Race.*

UNDER this title the following notice of M. Jules Simon's recent work, *L'Ouvrier de Huit Ans*, appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the 31st ult. This work, as well as *Le Travail*, by the same author, will be found among the "Tooke Memorial" books deposited in the library of the Society.

"M. Jules Simon has long been known as, perhaps, the most eminent and the most moderate, as well as one of the most zealous, of the philanthropists and social reformers in France. His works entitled *La Religion Naturelle* and *Le Travail*, secured him a high and well-merited reputation. In the book before us, seizing the occasion of the project of the Government for the reorganisation of the army and the virtual doubling of the severity of the conscription, and with the immediate object of urging the enactment of such a regulation of the factory labour of children as prevails in England, he draws a startling picture of the various influences which are at work to injure and deteriorate the physiological condition of his countrymen, and which seriously menace and, unless remedied, must, he considers, ultimately compromise their political position, if not their national existence. Neither his facts nor his arguments are altogether new; many of them, indeed, have been long before us, but he arrays them in an effective form well adapted to compel attention and excite uneasiness. He shows strong grounds for believing that the race is degenerating physically and increasing slowly; and that if the causes at work to produce these tendencies cannot be checked or counteracted, France must ere long lose her predominance in Europe, and her status among the great peoples of the earth. He recognises fully her present grandeur and her augmenting riches, but he holds with our English poet that—

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

We do not endorse his statements or his inferences—he knows his subject much better than we can do—we profess simply to give a brief summary of his argument.

"The English and the German race, he says, not only multiply fast, but spread over the whole earth. The French do not colonise, do not emigrate; they increase slowly, and increase only at home. Relatively, compared with every other European race (except perhaps the Spaniards), they are diminishing. The rate of increase of the population is slight beyond example. England doubled her population in the first fifty years of this century; that of France rose only from 27,000,000 to 36,000,000, or 30 per cent. against our 100 per cent. Yet during all this period England was peopling Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the Cape, as well as her own island. France was spreading nowhere outside of her European limits. The increase, though varying, has been on the whole no faster during the last fifteen

years of prosperity and industrial success. In 1854 and 1855 the deaths even exceeded, and largely exceeded, the births. Marriages, too, are on the decrease. There was 1 for every 108 inhabitants in 1784, and only 1 for every 122 in 1862. The births diminish also: between 1829 and 1833 they averaged 4 to a marriage; between 1851 and 1862 scarcely more than 3. But this is not all; the quality as well as the numbers of the people presents a most unsatisfactory appearance, judged at least by the few statistical tests that it is possible exactly to apply. It is true that *life* is lengthening on the average, owing to the advance of medical science and improved hygienic conditions; but *health*, a vigorous sanitary state of the people, is apparently on the decline. Conscripts are by no means so tall as they used to be; it has been found necessary progressively to lower the minimum standard of height for the service. Thus it was in—

	Metre.		Metre.
1701	1'624	1818	1'576
1803	1'598	'60	1'560

“ But this is not all. Of the 325,000 young men who annually reach their twenty-first year and become liable to the conscription, not only are 18,000 found to be too short for military service, or below 4 ft. 10 in. (French), *i.e.*, 5 ft. 1 in. (English), the standard for drummers formerly, but 91,000 others are found to be afflicted with various diseases or infirmities which disqualify them for the conscription. That is to say, just one-third of the entire male population are found on reaching manhood to be either too small or too sickly or too feeble to be enlisted in the army.

“ The causes to which, in M. Jules Simon's opinion, this unsatisfactory hygienic condition of the French race is to be attributed are three. First, the conscription, which, by withdrawing from the matrimonial market every year from one-third to one-half of the *sound* and healthy young men of France, and rendering marriage impossible to them for nine or twelve years, and often for life, leaves the work of keeping up the population and procreating the future generation in a great measure to the inferior and feeble specimens of the race. Secondly, the increase of manufactures and other species of urban industries, which drains the population away from the rural districts, and concentrates it in cities and in the more crowded parts of cities, where the sanitary conditions of life are never so favourable as in the country. It is found everywhere, not merely in France, that life is longer and securer even among the poorest and scantiest-fed agricultural populations than among the far more highly paid artisans of the towns. Moreover, the conscription empties the rural districts in a double measure, partly because a large proportion of those drawn thence are found fit for service, but also because of discharged soldiers only one-fourth return to country pursuits; the remainder all settle in cities. Thirdly and principally, M. Simon attributes the degeneracy he deplors to the employment of women and children in industrial occupations, particularly in the great factories of Lyons, Rouen, and Mulhausen. The children are employed too early, before their growth is developed, and longer than their strength can bear; and the women are employed too universally and too incessantly, so that they can neither nurse their children nor watch over them, nor bring them into the world with healthy constitutions. On this subject M. Simon brings out some fearful figures, but the figures only prove and fix in hard relief the facts which all reason and experience would lead us to anticipate. It is clear that women who spend ten or twelve hours a day in fatiguing labour at a factory can never be careful mothers or good housewives, or keep comfortable homes, or give wholesome sustenance to their infants. It is notorious that neglected children die fast, and that children handed over to mercenary nurses, especially among the poor, die fastest of all; and it needs no argument to satisfy us that children who have survived these perils of infancy only to be employed from the age of eight or nine years eight or nine hours daily in a factory, can seldom become healthy parents or sagacious and energetic and well-educated citizens. M. Simon states the mortality among the children

of artisans below one year at 20 per cent. in Manchester and Roubaix, 30 per cent at Mulhausen, and 53 at Lyons. In the latter town among the higher ranks the infant mortality does not exceed 10 per cent. Among the peasants in purely rural districts, who live poorly but *en famille*, and can give full attention to their children, the mortality in the first year, according to M. Devilliers, is very small—scarcely more than 5 per cent.; among the artisan children put out to nurse in those districts where this practice is most prevalent, it is said to reach 95 per cent. In fact, nearly all those neglected children die—and are expected to die.

“Such are the formidable facts which M. Simon lays before the world, and he is a careful and conscientious author. He appears to have had two objects in writing his book—the first, to obtain a law limiting the labour of children of tender age to five or six hours daily; the second, to point out the mischief to be apprehended by an enactment—such as that proposed by the new scheme for the reorganisation of the French army—which would render, not half as now, but the whole of the *sound* male adults of France disqualified for marriage till their twenty-sixth or twenty-ninth year. The moderation of M. Simon’s recommendations, and the candour with which he recognises the practical difficulties of the question, are remarkable, and the work will well repay a studious perusal.”

V.—*The British Leather Trade.*

FROM the *Manchester Guardian*:—

“It was stated at a public dinner, in London, on Thursday night, that the transactions of the various leather trades all over the kingdom are estimated to be represented by from 15,000,000*l.* to 20,000,000*l.* a year in the aggregate. There are upwards of a quarter of a million of persons engaged in making and selling boots and shoes in the kingdom, and about 16,000,000*l.* is calculated to be expended in that branch of the trade alone. There are between 200 and 300 leather sellers’ shops in London alone, and there are about 500 tanneries in various parts of the kingdom, employing about 400,000 persons directly or indirectly, and preparing and dressing at least 80,000 tons of leather, the consumption keeping pace with the progress of industry. Of hides 270,640 cwt. (dry) and 785,999 (wet) were imported in the last year, and 8,448,670 lbs. of tanned hides. About 300,000 tons of indigenous oak bark are consumed annually, besides importations, which in 1866 amounted to upwards of 543,000 tons, and in the same year 218,920 cwt. of hides were exported.”
